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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,090	12/09/2003	Jea-Woo Park	1572.1255	2809
21171	7590	03/07/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BROUSSARD, COREY M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/730,090	PARK, JEA-WOO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Corey M. Broussard	2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-6, and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al. in view of Martucci. With respect to claim 1, Long teaches a computer main body (102) and a docking station (400 may be a docking tray according to page 5 paragraph 52 line 4). The computer main body and docking station each have a connection port to receive electrical power (126' and 422 respectively). Long also teaches of an AC/DC adapter main body (200) with a DC power cable (230) and a power supplying jack (224') at an end. Long does not disclose a second cable branched off from the power supply cable with a jack at one end. Martucci teaches of a power supply cable (1) with a grounding cable (4) branched off and ending in a grounding jack (19). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the AC/DC adapter and connection jacks of Long with the auxiliary grounding wire of Martucci to obtain an AC/DC adapter capable of electrically connecting to both the computer and docking station where one device would receive electrical power and both would be directly connected to the ground plane of the AC/DC

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adapter for the benefit of an auxiliary ground path better protecting the two devices from transients.

2. With respect to claim 2, Long as modified by Martucci fails to disclose the grounding jack having the same cross section and size as the grounding terminal of the power supply jack. The rationale that a particular shape is a design choice may be found in legal precedent: *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a separate grounding jack as taught by Martucci of any known size and shape that is known for use with plugs for the benefit of a low cost widely available connector.

3. With respect to claim 3, Long teaches an AC/DC power supply adapter base (200) with a power cable (230) terminating at a power supplying jack (224'). Long does not disclose a second cable connected to the power cable. Martucci teaches of a power cable (1) with a grounding cable (4) connected to the power cable and terminating at the other end in a grounding jack (19). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the AC/DC adapter of Long with the auxiliary grounding wire of Martucci to obtain an AC/DC adapter capable of connecting a portable device (400) and the interfacing docking station (100) where one would receive power through the power supplying jack and the other would be connected through the grounding jack to supply an alternative ground path.

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4. With respect to claim 4, Long as modified by Martucci teaches of a power supplying jack (224') with a terminal (212') for supplying DC power and a tubular grounding conductor (214') coaxial with the terminal (Fig. 9).

5. With respect to claims 5 and 6, Long as modified by Martucci fails to disclose the grounding jack having a tubular grounding conductor and the same dimensions as power supplying jack. The rationale that a particular shape is a design choice may be found in legal precedent: *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a power and grounding jack as taught by Long modified by Martucci in any known size and shape that is known for use with plugs for the benefit of a low cost widely available connector.

6. With respect to claim 8, Martucci as modified by Long teaches that the grounding jack (19) has a grounding conductor (10) and no power supply terminal.

7. With respect to claim 9, Long teaches an AC/DC power supply adapter base unit (200) with a power cable (230) terminating in a power supplying jack (224') for connecting to a first (100) and second (400) electrical device. Long does not disclose a second cable splitting off from the power cable. Martucci teaches a power supplying cable (1) with a grounding cable (4) splitting off from the power cable (see Fig. 1) and terminating in a grounding jack (19). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the AC/DC adapter of Long with the power cable and auxiliary grounding wire of Martucci to obtain an AC/DC adapter with a power supplying cable and jack

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providing a power supply path and first ground path for a first electrical device, and a grounding cable split from the power supplying cable and terminating in a grounding jack providing a second ground path other than the first for a second electrical device for the benefit of an auxiliary ground path better protecting the two devices from transients.

8. With respect to claim 10, Long as modified by Martucci teaches of a power supplying jack (224') with a terminal (212') for supplying DC power and a tubular grounding conductor (214') coaxial with the terminal (Fig. 9).

9. With respect to claims 11 and 12, Long as modified by Martucci fails to disclose the grounding jack having a tubular grounding conductor and the same dimensions as power supplying jack. The rationale that a particular shape is a design choice may be found in legal precedent: *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a power and grounding jack as taught by Long modified by Martucci in any known size and shape that is known for use with plugs for the benefit of a low cost widely available connector.

10. With respect to claim 13, Martucci teaches that the grounding jack (19) has a grounding conductor (10) and no power supply terminal.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 01/13/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to applicant's argument that Martucci in view of Long fails to suggest the claimed invention, the Examiner recognizes that

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the references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures, taken as a whole, would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. In *re* McLaughlin, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971) references are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. In *re* Bozek, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). In this case, Long teaches an AC/DC adapter that connects and supplies power to a notebook computer and a docking station or some other peripheral device using a single connector. Martucci teaches a power connector (not a hospital bed) having an auxiliary wire and ground connector. As one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize, Martucci's connector is not limited to what the connector connects too, or whether it is connecting one device to the main power grid or connecting two devices together. Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art, taking as a whole Long and Martucci together, would see that the notebook computer and peripheral device of Long could be connected using the connector taught by Martucci. This would provide the useful benefit of grounding protection to one of the devices that was powered by its own portable power source (or off where it does not use any power) so that it did not require a power supply from the AC/DC adapter. With respect to the argument that Long as modified by Martucci does not teach where the power supplying cable is connected to one of the computer main body and docking

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station and a grounding jack is connected to the other one of computer main body and docking station, the Examiner respectfully disagrees (see claim rejections above).

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

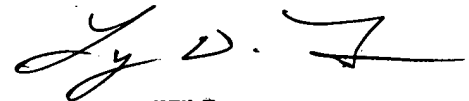
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey M. Broussard whose telephone number is 571 272 2799. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571 272 2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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